

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) A method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

receiving a first command from a first party, in which the first command indicates ~~ing~~ that a spread market ~~for a tradable item~~ should be made, in which the spread market including a first spread with which a first market for a financial instrument may be made and includes a second spread with which a second market for the financial instrument may be made, and in which the first command includes an acceptance by the first party ~~at which the first party agrees to~~ participate in ~~[[a]] the first market if a second party accepts the first spread and an acceptance by the first party and a second spread at which the first party agrees to make [[a]] the second market if the second party accepts the second spread;~~

transmitting information about the spread market to ~~[[a]] the~~ second party; and

receiving a second command from the second party, in which the second command comprises ~~ing~~ at least one of an acceptance ~~hit~~ of the first spread and an acceptance ~~take~~ of the second spread

if the second command comprises the acceptance of the first spread, requiring the first party to submit a third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument through the first market, and

if the second command comprises the acceptance of the second spread, requiring the second party to submit a third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument through the second market.

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, ~~wherein~~ in which the second command comprises the ~~hit~~ acceptance of the first spread and requiring the first party to submit the third command includes the method further comprises the step of: blocking the first party from participating in a market if the ~~a~~ third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the

~~tradeable item~~ financial instrument through the first market is not received from the first party within a given limited period of time.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim 29, ~~wherein~~ in which the second command comprises the ~~hit acceptance~~ of the first spread and requiring the first party to submit the third command includes the method further comprises the step of: charging a fee to the first party if ~~the a~~ a third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the ~~tradeable item~~ financial instrument through the first market is not received from the first party within a given limited period of time.

31. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, ~~wherein~~ in which the second command comprises the ~~hit acceptance~~ of the first spread and requiring the first party to submit the third command includes the method further comprises the step of: automatically entering a default trading command from the first party if a the third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the financial instrument ~~tradeable item~~ through the first market is not received from the first party within a given limited period of time, ~~automatically entering a default trading command from the first party.~~

32. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, ~~wherein~~ in which the first spread and the second spread are the same, ~~second command comprises the hit of the first spread and the method further comprises the step of:~~  
requiring the first party to submit a third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the tradeable item through the first market within a given time period from receipt of the second command.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, ~~wherein~~ in which the second command comprises the ~~hit acceptance~~ of the first spread and the method further comprises ~~the steps of:~~  
requiring the second party to submit a fourth command indicating that the first market for the financial instrument should be made with the first spread.

if a third command from the second party indicating that the first market for the tradeable item should be created based on the first spread is not received from the second party within a given period of time after receiving the second command, at least one of blocking the second party from participating in a market, charging a fee to the second party, and automatically entering a default trading command for the second party.

34. (currently amended) The method of claim 33, ~~wherein in which~~ the ~~third~~ fourth command includes an indication of a ~~suitable~~ price around which the ~~underlying~~ first market is based should be made.

35. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, ~~wherein in which~~ the second command comprises the acceptance ~~take~~ of the second spread and requiring the second party to submit the third command includes ~~the method further comprises the step of~~ charging a fee to the second party if a the third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the tradeable item financial instrument through the second market is not received from the second party within a given limited period of time.

36. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, ~~wherein in which~~ the second command comprises the acceptance ~~take~~ of the second spread and requiring the second party to submit the third command includes ~~the method further comprises the step of~~ automatically entering a default trading command from the second party if a the third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the tradeable item through the second market is not received from the second party within a given limited period of time; ~~automatically entering a default trading command from the second party~~.

37. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, ~~wherein in which~~ the second command comprises the ~~take~~ acceptance of the second spread and requiring the second party to submit the third command includes ~~the method further comprises the step of~~ blocking the second party from participating in a market if the ~~a~~ third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of

~~the financial instrument through the second market is not received from the second party within a limited period of time, requiring the second party to submit a third command indicating at least one of a buy and a sell of the tradeable item through the second market within a given time period from receipt of the second command.~~

38. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, ~~wherein in which~~ the second command comprises the ~~take~~ acceptance of the ~~first~~ second spread and the method further comprises ~~the steps of:~~ requiring the first party to submit a fourth command indicating that the second market for the financial instrument should be made using the second spread,

~~if a third command from the first party indicating that the second market for the tradeable item should be created based on the second spread is not received from the first party within a given period of time after receiving the second command, at least one of blocking the first party from participating in a market, charging a fee to the first party, and automatically entering a default trading command for the first party.~~

39. (currently amended) The method of claim 38, ~~wherein in which~~ the ~~third~~ fourth command includes an indication of a ~~suitable~~ price around which the ~~underlying~~ second market ~~is based~~ should be made.

40. (currently amended) A computer readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions that when executed by one or more computers, cause ~~the~~ one or more computers systems to perform the method of claim 28.